(घ) क्या उक्त संख्या में और राष्ट्रीय नमूना सर्वेक्षण द्वारा पता लगाई गई संख्या में कोई भिन्नता है ?

योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री गिरिधर गोमांगो) : (क) से (घ) देश में गरीबी का आकलन राष्ट्रीय प्रतिदर्श सर्वेक्षण संगठन (एनएसएसओ) द्वारा नहीं बल्कि योजना आयोग द्वारा किया जाता है। तथापि, योजना आयोग गरीबी का आकलन करने के लिए घरेलू उपभोक्ता व्यय पर एनएसएसओ द्वारा आयोजित पंचवार्षिक सर्वेक्षणों के आंकड़ों का सहारा लेता है। घरेलू उपभोक्ता व्यय पर नवीनतम पंचवार्षिक सर्वेक्षण 1987–88 के लिए उपलब्ध है। इस सर्वेक्षण के आधार पर गरीबों की संख्या 23.77 करोड़ होने का अनुमान था। सरकार ने स्वर्गीय प्रो० डी० टी० लकड़वाला की अध्यक्षता में एक विशेषज्ञ दल का गठन किया था, तथा दल ने अपनी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत कर दी है। विशेषज्ञ दल ने वर्ष 1987-88 में 31.27 करोड़ व्यक्तियों के गरीबों की रेखा से नीचे होने का अनुमान लगाया है।

Recommendations made by Commission on Irrigation Pricing

381. **DR. ASHOK MITRA**: Will the **MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION** be pleased to state :

(a) what are the main recommendations made to the Planning Commission on Irrigation Pricing ;

(b) what are the reasons for not releasing the Report for public discussion ; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to implement the recommendations of the Committee that have been found acceptable ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (c) The Water Pricing Committee was an internal group set by the Planning Commission on Oct. 1991 to study the Pricing of Irrigation Water. Some salient features of the Report of the Committee on Pricing of Irrigation Water include ; treating water rates as user's charge ; the objective of water charge is ultimately to recover cost ; linking revision of water rates to the improvement of the quality of service ; revision and implementation of water rates in phases ; consolidation of the system of farmer group management ; upgrading the system to higher level efficiency in water use and productivity ; setting up of expert's group at the State level for working out norms and procedure for periodic monitoring ; setting up of autonomous boards at the State level to review policy regarding cost of water, revising water rates and introducing a minimum financial return criteria. The copies of the Committee's Report have already been sent to States for their Comments/views. The Planning Commission has set-up a Group of officials to go into the Report of the Committee. "Irrigation" being a State subject, decision on water rates can be taken only in consultation with the State Governments and Union Territories, after the Group of Officials has finalised its views on the action to be taken on the various recommendations of the Committee.

382. [*Transferred to 10th December,* 1993]

Persons below the Poverty Line in the Country Particularly in Gujarat State

383. **SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL**: Will the MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of persons/families below poverty line as on 30th June, 1993 belonging to backward classes and Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, State-wise particularly in Gujarat State ;

(b) whether there has been any increase/decrease in the number of those families in comparison to that of the last year ;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor ; and